



## Policy Recommendations

# One Year of Implementation of the **Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative**: How can Lessons Learnt inform the Global Compacts?

On **5 December 2017**, at the Westin Hotel in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, ICMPD hosted the side event "[One Year of Implementation of the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative: How can Lessons Learnt inform the Global Compacts](#)". The event took place in the margins of the [preparatory stocktaking meeting](#) of the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (GCM), under the auspices of the Governments of Mexico and the Philippines.

The discussion focused on how lessons learnt from the implementation of the [Migrants in Countries in Crisis \(MICIC\) Initiative](#) could inform the GCM. The following **recommendations** with regards to the *format*, the *outcomes* and *key thematic elements*, with high relevance and applicability for the GCM, summarize the outcome of the panel discussion:

### Format

- **Target group:** It is recommended that the GCM includes specific provisions for various sub-groups of migrants, whose situations and needs may be significantly different from others.
- **Multi-disciplinary approach:** It is recommended that the GCM draws on manifold sources in addition to consultations, and to base its suggested ways of action on evidence-based concepts and strategies.
- **Timeframe:** It is recommended that groups of States establish similar time-bound consultation mechanisms for important elements on which consensus may not be reached before the intergovernmental conference on international migration in June 2018.
- **Leadership:** It is recommended that States remain in the full lead of the GCM process, and continue committing to it. It is also recommended that States take the main responsibility in the implementation of the GCM, which may include new initiatives that build on the MICIC format and methodology as a good practice.
- **Working group:** It is recommended that States engage with a wide range of stakeholders in the implementation of the GCM.
- **Wide consultations:** It is recommended that the GCM process continues to follow a multi-stakeholder approach.

### Outcomes

- **MICIC Guidelines:** It is recommended that the GCM also applies a simple, direct and non-bureaucratic language.
- **MICIC repository:** It is recommended that the GCM offers practical examples and concrete guidance drawing on existing experience and promotes exchanges of good practices.
- **MICIC capacity building:** It is recommended to identify concrete means of implementation of the GCM to ensure immediate follow-up on commitments.

Side event organised in the framework of the Project «Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC): Supporting an Evidence-based Approach for Effective and Cooperative State Action »



## Key Thematic Elements

- **Agency of migrants:** It is recommended that the GCM portrays migrants as capable, self-determined individuals as opposed to just vulnerable victims; migrants have manifold capabilities to contribute to safe, orderly and regular migration.
- **Data collection:** It is recommended to anchor the importance of accurate and comprehensive data collection in the GCM, irrespective of the status and length of the stay of the migrant.
- **Post-crisis assistance:** It is recommended to commit to targeted and demand-driven return and reintegration assistance in the GCM.
- **Engagement of the private sector:** It is recommended to enable the private sector to contribute to safe, orderly and regular migration within the GCM.
- **Community engagement:** It is recommended to strengthen the global perception of migrant communities as core stakeholders through the GCM.

## Summary of the Panel Discussion

- **Target group:** The focus on a specific group of migrants, namely those residing in a country at the time when the latter is affected by a conflict or natural disaster, allowed the MICIC Initiative to identify targeted and precise, yet transferable practices, principles and guidelines on means of protection. *It is recommended that the GCM includes specific provisions for various sub-groups of migrants, whose situations and needs may be significantly different from others.*
- **Multi-disciplinary approach:** The design of the complementary EU-funded [MICIC project](#), consisting of a set of three-interrelated activities – research, consultations and capacity building – addressed data, dialogue and capacity gaps alike. *It is recommended that the GCM draws on manifold sources in addition to consultations, and to base its suggested ways of action on evidence-based concepts and strategies.*
- **Timeframe:** The definition of a strict timeframe for the conduction of regional consultations across the globe and the subsequent development of the [MICIC Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster](#) supported a results-oriented approach and the production of concrete and timely outcomes. *It is recommended that groups of States establish similar time-bound consultation mechanisms for important elements on which consensus may not be reached before the intergovernmental conference on international migration in June 2018.*
- **Leadership:** The MICIC Initiative was a state-led process, truly owned by governments. Given their authority to commit to recommendations and enact decisions, it was fundamental that they act as principal stakeholders. *It is recommended that States remain in the full lead of the GCM process, and continue committing to it. It is also recommended that States take the main responsibility in the implementation of the GCM, which may include new initiatives that build on the MICIC format and methodology as a good practice.*
- **Working group:** The co-chairs, the governments of the United States and the Philippines, were supported in their role by a working group composed of the governments of Australia, Bangladesh, Costa Rica and Ethiopia, international organisations and academic institutions, which ensured a true multi-stakeholder character of the MICIC Initiative. *It is recommended that States engage with a wide range of stakeholders in the implementation of the GCM.*
- **Wide consultations:** Consultations at regional level across all continents to collect evidence for the production of the [MICIC Guidelines](#) proved to be an effective setup to take into consideration the sometimes very different perspectives and experiences of as many countries and other actors as possible. In addition, parallel regional consultations organised by the civil society helped to push governments to assume responsibility more widely. Additional stakeholders' consultations dedicated to civil society organisations, international organisations and the private sector further increased the variety and inclusiveness of the information and opinions gathered. *It is recommended that the GCM process continues to follow a multi-stakeholder approach.*
- **MICIC Guidelines:** The main outcome of the MICIC Initiative, the [MICIC Guidelines](#), was written in a simple, direct, non-bureaucratic language, which has greatly facilitated and promoted its wide-spread use. *It is recommended that the GCM also applies a simple, direct and non-bureaucratic language.*

- **MICIC repository:** The publicly available [MICIC online repository](#) offers hundreds of examples on how to protect migrants before, during and after crisis situations from all over the world. It is a space to share good practices and serves as a source of inspiration for further actions. *It is recommended that the GCM offers practical examples and concrete guidance drawing on existing experience and promotes exchanges of good practices.*
- **MICIC capacity building:** [Capacity building initiatives](#), such as training on crisis preparedness, emergency response and post-crisis action for first responders and other core actors, were kicked off right after the launch of the MICIC Guidelines and thereby transferred recommendations into concrete actions. *It is recommended to identify concrete means of implementation of the GCM to ensure immediate follow-up on commitments.*
- **Agency of migrants:** The MICIC Initiative succeeded in moving away from a vulnerability-focused perspective of migrants towards an empowerment-centered approach. It also involved migrants in the MICIC process and made their voices heard, for example through qualitative interviews which informed capacity building activities. *It is recommended that the GCM portrays migrants as capable, self-determined individuals as opposed to just vulnerable victims; migrants have manifold capabilities to contribute to safe, orderly and regular migration.*
- **Data collection:** Proper data collection mechanisms in countries of origin, transit and destination alike were identified as a key priority for improved protection of migrants in the MICIC Initiative. Several countries have since launched measures at national level to improve information about the identity of migrants to improve their protection during crises. *It is recommended to anchor the importance of accurate and comprehensive data collection in the GCM, irrespective of the status and length of the stay of the migrant.*
- **Post-crisis assistance:** The MICIC Initiative highlighted the importance of tailored and long term return and reintegration assistance for returning migrants during the post-crisis phase. *It is recommended to commit to targeted and demand-driven return and reintegration assistance in the GCM.*
- **Engagement of the private sector:** The MICIC Initiative uncovered the private sector as particularly promising yet underused stakeholder for the protection of migrants, following which efforts to mobilise them as a resource for the restoration of income in post-crisis situations were stepped up at national level in some countries. *It is recommended to enable the private sector to contribute to safe, orderly and regular migration within the GCM.*
- **Community engagement:** The MICIC Initiative managed to manifest the crucial role of migrant communities, for example by highlighting their potential to contribute to reconstruction efforts after crises. *It is recommended to strengthen the global perception of migrant communities as core stakeholders through the GCM.*

## The Experts

The panel, moderated by **Ms. Malin Frankenhaeuser**, Head of Policy at ICMPD, was composed as follows:

- **Mr. José Eduardo Rojo Oropeza**, Director of International and Interinstitutional Relations, Migration Policy Unit of the Ministry of the Interior, Government of Mexico
- **Mr. Enrico Fos**, Minister, Philippine Permanent Mission to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, Government of the Philippines
- **Mr. Antonio Parenti**, Head of Section Economics, Trade, Development, European Union Delegation to the United Nations in New York
- **Ms. Michele Klein-Solomon**, Director, Global Compact for Migration/Senior Policy Advisor to the Director General, International Organization for Migration
- **Mr. John K. Bingham**, Head of Policy, International Catholic Migrant Commission